AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-36. (Cancelled)

37.   (Previously Presented) A method for translating instant messages exchanged during an instant messaging session between a first user using a first device and a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, the method comprising:

   during initiation of the instant messaging session between the first device and the second device, and prior to any message received from the first user being transmitted by the first device to the second device,

   sending by the first device to the second device an indication of the first translation preference; and

   receiving by the first device from the second device an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference; and

   during the initiated session,

   receiving by the first device from the first user a first message intended for the second device, the first message composed according to the first translation preference;

   based on the received indication of the second translation preference, translating by the first device the received first message from the first translation preference to the second translation preference; and

   transmitting the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device as an instant message during the established session via the communication network.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising, storing by the first device the received indication of the second translation preference.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.

42.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 37.

43-47. (Cancelled)

48.   (Previously Presented) A computing system of a first device for translating instant messages sent from a first user using the first device to a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, comprising:

    a component of the first device that establishes an instant messaging session between the first device and the second device;

    a component of the first device that, during the establishment of the instant messaging session, receives from the second device an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference;

a component of the first device that receives from the first user a first message intended for the second user, the first message composed according to the first translation preference, and that automatically translates the first message from the first translation preference to the second translation preference received during the established instant messaging session, wherein the indication of the second translation preference is received prior to any message received from the first user being transmitted by the first device to the second device;

a component of the first device that transmits during the established instant messaging session the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device via the communication network;

a component of the first device that receives from the second user a second message intended for the first user, the second message composed according to the second translation preference, and that translates the second message from the second translation preference to the first translation preference; and

a component of the first device that provides to the first user the second message translated to the first translation preference.

49.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the component that receives the indication of the second translation preference stores the received indication of the second translation preference.

50.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

51.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

52.   (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.

53-58. (Cancelled)